

Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

DANIEL HOPKINS,

Plaintiff,

v.

INTEGON GENERAL INSURANCE
CORPORATION,

Defendant.

NO. 2:18-CV-01723-MJP

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

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(206) 628-6600

1 2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

2 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things
3 produced or otherwise exchanged:

- 4 - Manuals, guidelines, memoranda, written policies, software programs,
5 and other similar documents or programs relating to or used in Integon’s
6 investigation, evaluation, adjustment, and/or handling of the insurance
7 claim at issue.

8 3. SCOPE

9 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
10 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2)
11 all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any
12 testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal
13 confidential material. However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover
14 information that is in the public domain, is subject to disclosure under the Freedom of
15 Information Act, or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

16 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

17 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is
18 disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for
19 prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be
20 disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this
21 agreement. Confidential material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a
22 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized
23 under this agreement.

1 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
2 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving
3 party may disclose any confidential material only to:

4 (a) the receiving party’s legal counsel of record in this action, as well as employees
5 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

6 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
7 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties
8 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney’s Eyes Only (“AEO”)
9 and is so designated;

10 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
11 litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit
12 A);

13 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

14 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
15 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service
16 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately
17 return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

18 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
19 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
20 Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court.
21 Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential
22 material may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;

1 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian
2 or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

3 4.3 Filing AEO Material. Before filing AEO material or discussing or
4 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating
5 party to determine whether the designating party will remove the AEO designation, whether
6 the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is
7 warranted. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the
8 standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material
9 under seal.

10 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

11 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.
12 Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this
13 agreement must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under
14 the appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts
15 of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other
16 portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not
17 warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

18 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
19 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to
20 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary
21 expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

1 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated
2 for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other
3 parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

4 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
5 this agreement (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated
6 or ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement
7 must be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

8 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and
9 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
10 proceedings), the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that
11 contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies
12 for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by
13 making appropriate markings in the margins).

14 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings: the
15 parties must identify on the record, during the deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, all
16 protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after
17 reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving a
18 deposition transcript, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential.

19 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the
20 exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word
21 "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant
22 protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

1 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
2 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the
3 designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon
4 timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure
5 that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

6 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

7 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a
8 designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's
9 confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness,
10 unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party
11 does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a
12 challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

13 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any
14 dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding
15 confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or
16 in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged or attempted to engage in a good faith
17 meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute
18 without court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the
19 conference or describe the movant's efforts to meet and confer. A good faith effort to confer
20 requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

21 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without
22 court intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality
23 under Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The

1 burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous
2 challenges or designations, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose
3 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging party or
4 designating party, respectively, to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material
5 in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

6 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN
7 OTHER LITIGATION

8 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that
9 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as
10 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must:

11 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
12 subpoena or court order;

13 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue
14 in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is
15 subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

16 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the
17 designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

18 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

19 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
20 confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement,
21 the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the
22 unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the
23 protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were

1 made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the
2 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

3 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
4 PROTECTED MATERIAL

5 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
6 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
7 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This
8 provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery
9 order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. Parties shall
10 confer on an appropriate non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502.

11 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

12 Upon written request made by the producing party within 60 days after the termination
13 of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all confidential material to
14 the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the
15 parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

16 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
17 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
18 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert
19 work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

20 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
21 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

22 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

23 DATED this 6th day of June, 2019.

24 STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER - 8
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PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: June 6, 2019



Marsha J. Pechman
United States District Judge

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1 **EXHIBIT A**

2 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

3 I, _____ [print or type full name], of
4 _____, [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read
5 in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United
6 States District Court for the Western District of Washington on [date] in the case of *Daniel*
7 *Hopkins v. Integon General Insurance Corporation, NO. 2:18-CV-01723-MJP*. I agree to
8 comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I
9 understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and
10 punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any
11 manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person
12 or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

13 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
14 Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated
15 Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

16 Date: _____

17 City and State where sworn and signed: _____

18 Printed name: _____

19 Signature: _____